

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
REGULAR WORK SESSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2020
6:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Yeargin called the meeting to order at 6:15p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant (Late Arrival), Councilmember Charl Jones, Councilmember Hope Love, Councilmember Lamar Maxwell (Late Arrival), Councilmember Shireka McCarthy, Councilmember Kelly Porter (Late Arrival), Councilmember Gloria Sistrunk, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: C. Reginald Bagley, Acting Director of Economic Development, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, Sharron Lipford, Director of Public Engagement, Jeannelle Wallace, Chief Operating Officer

1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The invocation was given by Council President Yeargin

1.1.4. Approval of Agenda

It was motioned by Councilmember Sistrunk and seconded by Councilmember Love to approve the agenda with amendments to allow the comments on Ordinance O-20-08 Amendment of Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget. The motion carried and was approved by the Council.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

- None

3. REPORTS:

3.1. Mayor's Report

- Mayor Grant greeted the City Council, staff and residents of Seat Pleasant.
- Mayor Grant stated that his presentation will be very brief.
- Mayor Grant stated that we are excited about the great things happening in the city.

- Mayor Grant stated he's very appreciative in the staff and an increase in Code Compliance in the City. The residents are pleased with the response from NCC and Public Works is doing a wonderful job with keeping the city clean with the two major thoroughfares running through the City.
- The Police Department is doing an excellent job on crime and the numbers are down. Public Engagement has been going out engaging the residents and providing them with information on services and assistances. The number of complaints has decreased for Public works. We keep a log and that is the work of the smart cities. We are maintaining the work that is being down. He wanted to applaud the work of the staff and everything that they are doing. We have several municipalities calling to inquire about the things we are doing and how the smart cities have tackled the many things we are doing.
- Mayor Grant stated that we have submitted quarterly reports in accordance to the legislation. You will hear some presentation tonight with some of the staff will contribute to the discussion.
- Our staff has stepped up in the work in comparison of the work of Rockville. We will continue to do what we are doing, and he really doesn't care about anyone else that is not a resident.
- Mayor Grant stated that his track record speaks for itself over the last 30 years.
- Mayor Grant stated that the Council committees have been meeting over the past few years with this administration and asking good questions.
- Mayor Grant stated that he has been to Annapolis in effort to bring some resources to the City. We are moving forward with the bond bill. He met with Senator Benson while in Annapolis. The Senator has a desire to meet with some of the mayors in District 24.
- Mayor Grant stated that we are trying to coordinate a meeting with the delegates and the Council. We would like to have a joint meeting with the County Council, the State Delegates, Senator, Mayor, and Council. We will have an agenda with the intended purpose of the meeting. What will be the realistic expectation?
- Mayor Grant stated that we are excited about the City Hall and Maintenance Facility renovations.
- Mayor Grant gave kudos to the Economic Development department that is overseeing the project. The project is moving in the right directions. We have investors still interested in the city.
- Do not let the negative nasty wicked individuals make you think that no one wants to come to the city. We have people interested in the city. We are

excited about our partners even the Federal partners. We received a telephone call from Congressman Steny Hoyer although he no longer represents the 4th congressional district. The County Executive is still in support of Seat Pleasant.

- Mayor Grant stated that he attended the 202 Coalition Meeting last week and it was an interested meeting. It was a company speaking and they mentioned the city in their commentary. The president of the new hospital had provided the residents with information regarding the upcoming hospital.
- Council President Yeargin inquired on the upcoming Seat Pleasant Day.
- Mr. Pender stated that he has scheduled entertainment. We have one stage and a larger kid zones this year. We have seven food vendors and five sales vendors. We are looking to obtain 15 vendors. The vendor fee was increased to \$145.00 for Seat Pleasant Day. We are looking for different exhibitors. We are looking for businesses that are looking to hire residents from the city. We are looking to have at least 10 high school bands, we had four last year. The link was forwarded to Congressman Brown office. We have the link to register for the parade on the city's website at www.seatpleasantmd.gov. we are looking for businesses to assist with sponsoring Seat Pleasant Day.
- Council President has asked if the children riding their bikes will be performing in the parade.
- Mr. Pender stated that he will locate the group to inquire of their interest.

3.2. Chief Operating Officer

- Mrs. Wallace stated Mrs. Wallace greeted the Mayor, Council, residents and staff.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that this is a synopsis of some of the work that has been accomplished by the staff. 24% of the citizens comments was compliments for the events and staff assistance. 20% was regarding bates trash, 36% was other categories.
- The IT Support had an uptick in December, we had server issues and PC issues. The Public Safety Department provided a speed enforcement evaluation report. We had some speeding, but not to point where we need to provide some enforcement. The enforcement limit is 40 MPH. The percentage tracked above the speed limit is 29% and the enforcement was low. The speeding was above 30 MPH, but not 40MPH. The study was done during the week and different times.

- The Economic Development Department and the NCC had issued 116 violations for the month of December for parking, vehicle and unfit property violation. We have a stack of judgments to process property liens for the properties and we were awarded abatement from the courts, which allow the cities to go on the private property to abate the issue.
- Mayor Grant stated that what Ms. Lanham has done was stepped up to the plate to assist the Finance Department to collect the Business Personal Property taxes. This is not in her job descriptions and some of the businesses are behind two to three years and still open doing business in the city. The City is paying our staff and we deliver services to the residents. The only way for the staff to get paid is when taxes are paid.
- Mayor Grant stated that he wanted to thank Lorrie and thank Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Barber and Ms. Lanham for assisting her. She had come to the city with NetSuite experience. He thanked Lt. O'Connor for assisting with finding revenue through grant dollars and assisting with writing the grant.
- Mayor Grant stated that he will put his staff up against anybody! we will pay our staff!
- Mrs. Wallace stated that we now have 58 vacant properties and a lot that are owned by banks, family trust and the properties that the city purchased are being worked on to be put on the market.
- The public works department has new vehicles to assist with cleaning of the streets and with the blue salt. We have a report of all the storm drains in the city and the light poles in the city.
- The City Clerk has collected over 1 million in outstanding business personal property taxes and responding to PIA request. We have 19 outstanding business that have been reported to the Clerk of the Circuit Courts for Prince George's County. We have reported each of the violators to the State as well that are not in compliance with SDAT.
- We are the first authentic smart city and our smart city is geared towards the vehicles coming through the city and the air quality in the Seat Pleasant. Most smart cities are based on transportation. We know what we need to do to prevent the incidents.
- The Human Resources Department continues to work on the new hires of Seat Pleasant, and we have an open enrollment coming up in March. The employees have been involved in training and meeting with Governmental Affairs & Technology committee regarding the updates to the personnel manual. The revisions are almost complete and will be forwarded to LGIT for review.

3.3. City Council Committee Reports

Finance and Budget Committee Report:

- Councilmember Sistrunk stated on January 17, 2020, the committee met with Mr. Ashton and Ms. Lanham regarding the salary increase ordinance for the Mayor and City Council. Unfortunately, we had a few problems with Ordinance O-20-05. The committee discovered that the Mayor and City Council was overpaid in their salary for the last three years. The salary was different than the approved Ordinance in 2016.
- Councilmember Sistrunk stated that the Ordinance O-20-05 will be on the Public Session Agenda for the City Clerk to read.
- Councilmember McCarthy stated that in the initial proposal was a huge spike and Councilmember Porter met with Ms. Lanham to increase salary over a four-year period this will be affordable to the City.
- Councilmember Sistrunk stated that the recommendation for the amendment of Chapter 6-Checks is for three signatures on all checks. The fourth signer will only sign checks in the absence of the Mayor, Council President or Chief Financial Officer. The revised Ordinance will be on the Public Session Agenda next week.

Public Works Committee Report:

- Mayor Grant stated that we are proposing a Charter Amendment as there will no longer be a Public Works Department. They will be the Environmental Justice Department with four entities to include Public Works, Waste Management, Special Operation and Environmental Inspections.
- Mayor Grant stated that they will be responsible for the trash collections, waste management, bulk trash and the big belly trash cans.
- Mayor Grant stated that Acting Director Joel Montgomery will be meeting with the contractor on tomorrow, Tuesday, February 4, 2020 and he has the call logs of complaints from the Constituent Service Support.
- Mr. Montgomery stated that we will need three CDL Drivers and there are some trash trucks that do not require a CDL Driver. We are looking to purchase an electric truck. We will be meeting with the vendor to request that we become a test site for their trucks. The vendor doesn't have any trucks in the State of Maryland.
- Mr. Montgomery stated that the Special Operations will be the event support function of the city. They will be responsible for setting up for city events.

- Mr. Montgomery stated that the Environmental Inspection Services division is primarily responsible for Inspection and Environmental compliance Enforcement.
- Mayor Grant stated that Councilmember McCarthy had inquired where will the funding for the purchase of the trucks come from? The Grants Manager had identified three funding sources.
- Officer O'Connor stated that he is certified to inspect commercial vehicles to ensure they are safe while traveling through Seat Pleasant. When he stops the vehicle for inspection and they have any violations, they are put out of commission. The heavy weight vehicles destroy our roads.
- Officer O'Connor stated that he is an accident reconstruction and he has a 40% success rate in getting the vehicles in compliance. When the vehicles are placed out of service and towed.
- Officer O'Connor stated this expands the jurisdiction of the Seat Pleasant Police Department, as he can assist the State of Maryland and the State Troopers. He has been requested to come to inspect some of the vehicles by the companies.
- Mayor Grant stated that this is what he was informing the Council of during the meeting. There is work being done and that is why he stated that he will put his staff against anyone.
- Mayor Grant stated this protects the City especially in Ward I with the companies tearing up our streets.
- Mayor Grant stated that the state looks for Officer O'Connor to assist them with enforcing the law on inspecting the vehicles.
- Mayor Grant stated that it is rare that the Mayor will attend a committee meeting with the City Council, but this will be requiring a charter amendment for the changing of the department name.
- Council President Yeargin inquired how will the change to the department name impact the new facility?
- Mayor Grant stated that we have the space and some of the managers can share an office as most of the staff will be in the streets.
- Mayor Grant stated that the information is listed in the quarterly reports and the Council can provide information to the constituents.

4. LEGISLATION

4.1. Ordinance O-20-08 Amendment of Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget for Decreasing City Revenue and Expenditures. Ordinance O-20-08 was introduced by the City Council and read by the City Clerk on Monday, February 3, 2020. Mr. Ashton, Financial Advisor stated that there is a revenue shortfall and a letter was

submitted to the City Council in August and the projections for the fender base was over projected. Mr. Ashton stated that we had a triple increase in Workers Compensation and LGIT Premiums. We stated that we would come to the City Council with adjustments for the budget.

Council President Yeargin inquired on the taxes being received for the Personal Property Taxes. Mr. Ashton stated that they are fine and that is 40% of the revenue.

Councilmember Jones inquired why the increase in the Workers Compensation premiums to \$200,000? Mr. Ashton stated that it was anticipated that the premiums would increase.

4.2. Ordinance O-20-09 Amendment of Chapter 150 Ordinance O-20-09 was introduced by the City Council and read by the City Clerk on Monday, February 3, 2020. Officer O'Connor stated that when the measure was initially implemented the city was paying for the collection efforts. When the ticket goes into collection the city was paying for the citations to be in collection. The \$35 flagging fee is bringing it up to the current rate. We have been flagging the citations but not suspending the tags. Any person with a violation of \$100 tags are flagged and we have 270,000 violators that are due to the City of Seat Pleasant. We have approximately \$9,000,000 in citations and \$5,000,000 dollars in collections. They will begin to take our citations more serious.

Councilmember Love wanted to know if this will be retroactive. Officer O'Connor stated that it will not be retroactively enforcing the ordinance. We will issue a letter requesting payment in 15 days and if it is not paid, we will issue a suspension.

When the violator is driving down the road they will be pulled over and the tags will be taken, and the vehicle will be impounded. Officer O'Connor stated that they will put the notice out on the VSA Boards.

Councilmember McCarthy stated that she hopes the city does a progressive campaign with informing the residents.

4.3 Ordinance O-20-10 Amendment of Chapter 68-Commercial Business District. Ordinance O-20-10 was introduced by the City Council and read by the City Clerk on Monday, February 3, 2020.

4.4 Ordinance O-20-11 Amendment of Chapter 14-Departments and Committee. Ordinance O-20-11 was introduced by the City Council and read by the City Clerk on Monday, February 3, 2020.

4.5 Resolution R-20-07 Approval of Application for Maryland Affordable Housing Trust Grant for 420 69th Pl. Seat Pleasant, MD. Resolution R-20-07 was introduced by the City Council and read by the City Clerk on Monday, February 3, 2020. It was motioned by Councilmember Maxwell and seconded by Councilmember Porter to approve Resolution R-20-07 for receipt of grant funding toward 420 69th Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Charl Jones, Hope Love, Kelly Porter, Lamar Maxwell, Reveral L Yeargin, Shireka McCarthy

Abstain: Gloria L Sistrunk

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1. None

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. None

7 ANNOUNCEMENTS

7.1. Ward V Monthly Meeting, Monday, February 10, 2020, Seat Pleasant Activity Center, 5720 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD from 9:30a.m.-11:30a.m.

7.2. Public Session, Monday, February 10, 2020, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, 311 68th Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD 20743 at 7:00p.m.

7.3 State of the City Address, Monday, February 24, 2020, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers-311 68th Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD 20743 from 6:00p.m.-7:30p.m.

7.4 Regular Work & Public Session, Monday, March 2, 2020, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, 311 68th Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD 20743 at 6:00p.m. and 7:00p.m.

7.5 National League of Cities-Congressional Cities Conference, Washington, DC from Sunday, March 8, 2020-Wednesday, March 11, 2020

7.6 District 24 Night, Monday, March 9, 2020, Miller Senate Building, Annapolis, MD from 6:00p.m.-8:00p.m.

7.7 Ward V Monthly Meeting, Monday, March 16, 2020, Seat Pleasant Activity Center, 5720 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD from 9:30a.m.-11:30a.m.

7.8 2020 Census Event, Pleasant Homes Apartments, Saturday, March 14, 2020 from 12:00p.m.-3:00p.m.

7.9 Regular Work Session, Monday, April 6, 2020, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, 311 68th Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD 20743 at 6:00p.m.

7.10 Public Session, Monday, April 13, 2020, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, 311 68th Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD 20743 at 7:00p.m.

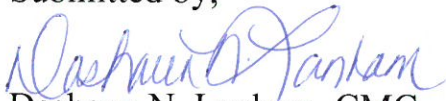
8. ADJOURN

Action: 8.1 Adjourn-Request Motion to go into Closed Session under Statutory Authority 3-305(b) (1) "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals;

It was motioned by Councilmember Sistrunk and seconded by Councilmember Love to go into Closed Session. The motion carried and was unanimously approved by the City Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39p.m.

Submitted by,


Dashaun N. Lanham, CMC
City Clerk